Application No: 10/590,117

Response to 12/04/2009 Office Action

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

- 11. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring ultrahigh vacuum, the method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) providing an ultrahigh-vacuum cold cathode pressure gauge comprising any one of a magnetron pressure gauge or a Penning pressure gauge;
  - [[(b)]] (a) subjecting [[the]] an ultrahigh-vacuum cold cathode pressure gauge to a magnetic field of between about 0.05 tesla (T) and about 1.5 tesla (T);
  - [[(c)]] (b) applying in a substantially linear with time increasing manner a voltage on increasing voltages of from between about 1 kV and 12 kV to an anode of the ultrahigh-vacuum cold cathode pressure gauge from between about 1 kV and 12 kV;
  - [[(d)]] (c) measuring [[an]] anode eurrent currents corresponding to the applied voltage voltages;
    - (e) storing the measured current and corresponding applied voltage values;
  - [[(f)]] (d) determining [[the]] a maximum current and the corresponding applied voltage values from the measured currents stored values; and
  - [[(g)]] (e) setting the voltage [[on]] applied to the anode to the level, to the corresponding applied voltage at which the current is substantially at its maximum-value; and.
    - (h) storing the voltage, at which the current is substantially at its maximum value in a database as the optimal voltage for a given pressure to be used as calibration.

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12. (Currently Amended) A device for measuring ultrahigh vacuum, the device comprising:

- (a) an ultrahigh-vacuum cold cathode pressure gauge comprising any one of a magnetron pressure gauge or a Penning pressure gauge, where said ultrahigh-vacuum cold cathode pressure gauge in the ultrahigh-vacuum cold cathode pressure gauge is configured to be capable of being subjected to a magnetic field of between about 0.05 tesla (T) and about 1.5 tesla (T);
- (b) a voltage-source configured to be capable of providing between about 1 kV and 12 kV, said voltage source being in electrical communication with an anode of the ultrahigh-vacuum cold cathode pressure gauge;
- (c) a controller configured to be capable of controlling that controls the voltage-source so that the to a voltage voltage source is capable of providing applied to the anode a voltage comprises increasing voltages of between about 1 kV and about 12 kV applied in a substantially linear with time increasing manner;
- (d) an ammeter configured to be capable of measuring that measures and storing values of an anode currents current corresponding to the applied voltages provided voltage;
- (e) a means for determining [[the]] <u>a</u> maximum current and <u>the</u> corresponding applied voltage <del>values from the stored values</del>; <u>and</u>
- (f) a means for setting the <u>applied</u> voltage [[on]] to the corresponding applied voltage the anode to the level at which the current is substantially at its maximum-value; and.

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(g) a means for storing the voltage, at which the current is substantially at its maximum value as the optimal voltage for a given pressure to be used as calibration.

- 13. (New) A device for measuring ultrahigh vacuum, the device comprising:
- (a) an ultrahigh-vacuum cold cathode pressure gauge comprising a Penning pressure gauge, where said ultrahigh-vacuum cold cathode pressure gauge in the ultrahigh-vacuum cold cathode pressure gauge is configured to be subjected to a magnetic field of between about 0.05 tesla (T) and about 1.5 tesla (T);
- (b) a voltage-source in electrical communication with an anode of the ultrahigh-vacuum cold cathode pressure gauge;
- (c) a controller that controls the voltage-source so that a voltage applied to the anode comprises increasing voltages of between about 1 kV and about 12 kV applied in a substantially linear manner;
- (d) an ammeter that measures anode currents corresponding to the applied voltages;
- (e) a means for determining a maximum current and the corresponding applied voltage; and
- (f) a means for setting the applied voltage to the corresponding applied voltage at which the current is substantially at its maximum.

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- 14. (New) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the ultrahigh vacuum ranges from about  $10^{-12}$  to about  $10^{-6}$  millibar (mbar).
- 15. (New) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the ultrahigh vacuum ranges from about  $10^{-8}$  to about  $10^{-6}$  millibar (mbar).
- 16. (New) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the ultrahigh-vacuum cold cathode pressure gauge comprises a magnetron pressure gauge.
- 17. (New) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the ultrahigh-vacuum cold cathode pressure gauge comprises a Penning pressure gauge.
- 18. (New) The device according to Claim 12, wherein the ultrahigh vacuum ranges from about  $10^{-12}$  to about  $10^{-6}$  millibar (mbar).
- 19. (New) The device according to Claim 12, wherein the ultrahigh vacuum ranges from about  $10^{-8}$  to about  $10^{-6}$  millibar (mbar).
- 20. (New) The device according to Claim 13, wherein the ultrahigh vacuum ranges from about  $10^{-12}$  to about  $10^{-6}$  millibar (mbar).
- 21. (New) The device according to Claim 13, wherein the ultrahigh vacuum ranges from about  $10^{-8}$  to about  $10^{-6}$  millibar (mbar).